

# Margaret Campbell: A veteran woos St. George

By ROSEMARY SPEIRS  
Star staff writer

Snow was blowing around the big houses on Glen Elyth Dr. and her campaign workers' feet were freezing, but at every house where nobody was in, Margaret Campbell stopped to write little notes on her campaign literature, holding her pen in stiff, cold fingers.

"Sorry to have missed you, Margaret Campbell." She could have written the notes in comfort at campaign headquarters before starting out, but won't to preserve the personal touch.

In the big, plush apartment towers south of Upper Canada College, more were home—maids and ladies of the house. "I am asking for your vote. It's the most important thing you can give," Mrs. Campbell tells them.

The old pro with the touch for people. At 60, with a career as alderman and controller, a defeat in the 1969 Toronto mayoral race, an appointment as family court judge behind her, Mrs. Campbell is running as a Liberal in the March 15 provincial by-election in St. George riding because she fears the Davis government has become a bureaucracy out of control.

"The provincial government has become an Olympian, monolithic structure that proceeds on its own way," she told a student group at Hart House during a break from her chilling day of campaigning last week.

"When the balance of power gets too one-sided, it gets rooted. We haven't seen too much democracy for a long period of time. I'm here to be an alternative if you want it. The Liberals are the opposition and the opposition has to be strengthened."

## Came as surprise

Mrs. Campbell's entry into the by-election race in mid-February came as a surprise to almost everyone, partly because she is a former Conservative and because her name hadn't even been touted in the list of possible candidates scouted by the party. Well-known and popular as a city politician, she is a strong candidate and her entrance against Conservative Roy McMurtry and NDPer Ellen Adams has made the result unpredictable.

There are three other candidates for minor parties: Brian Mossop, 26, a teaching assistant at the University of Toronto, who is representing the Communist Party of Canada; writer John Ross Taylor for the Western Guard party, and Harold Bains for the Communist Party—Marxist-Leninist.

Mrs. Campbell gave up her family court judgeship to take on St. George, and rumor has it that she was promised (or had dangled before her) a reward—perhaps a federal judgeship—if she loses, by the

★ Continuing her series on the personalities and issues in the March 15 provincial by-election in Toronto's St. George riding, Star staff writer Rosemary Speirs today examines the campaign of Liberal candidate Margaret Campbell. A further article will be devoted to Ellen Adams, running for the NDP.

prominent Liberals who helped persuade her to run.

However, she doesn't talk as if that is the case:

"There comes a time when you have to speak out, and I couldn't do the job as a judge that has to be done. If I had a voice that people still trust, I had to make it heard. I would not go back to being a judge."

If she wins, Mrs. Campbell is expected to provide new vigor to the provincial Liberals. Some suggest she could run for the leadership when Robert Nixon steps down this fall. She would bring a well-known name and, hopefully, new life to the rather lacklustre 20-member party.

"If that had been the promise made to me for running, I wouldn't be doing it," Mrs. Campbell says in oblique answer to questions about her interest in the leadership.

"That would be superimposing somebody on people and that sort of behavior is the very thing I'm campaigning against the Davis government for."

If Mrs. Campbell has weaknesses, they are: She started late in the campaign and has to catch up to her opponents; her name is known but she has been out of politics since 1969 and the voters may have forgotten what she stood for; she isn't as knowledgeable yet as the other two on provincial issues; she has flipped political parties.

Liberal canvassers say they don't find the issue of her political affiliation being brought up, but canvassers for the other two parties report some voters reject Mrs. Campbell as a turncoat.

She regards that as unfair. "My personal philosophy is exactly what it was and on the same issues. This is not something new, it is what I deeply believe," she says.

As a civic politician, she resented what she regarded as confusion in provincial-municipal policies, imposition of plans without consultation. But with the creation of the several-tiered Davis style of government, with ministers and superministers, she feels the situation has worsened and has returned to the fray.

On the other hand, Mrs. Campbell has already departed twice in her campaign from official Liberal policy. Like all the candidates, she opposes any proposals to revive the Spadina Expressway, even though the provincial Liberals are for it. And she says she cannot agree with their call for extending more aid to separate schools because she feels the province can't afford it.

Mrs. Campbell's greatest

strength, says her personal assistant, Chris Yankou, is that she has a high profile. "I've been amazed going around with her—everyone knows her."

"I'm very identifiable," Mrs. Campbell agrees. "People know me. With all my municipal experience, I made very few enemies. People trusted me. I was always very oriented to people."

In her campaigning she stresses that there are already 76 Conservatives in the House and another isn't really needed. A by-election, she says, is a good time for people to express safely some discontent with the government. "After all, another opposition member might do some good, but another Tory won't change things."

The Liberal campaign is centred on her personality and past record. She fought the Spadina Expressway in the early 1960s; when she was Metro's budget chief she trimmed spending. "She's a doer," says her campaign literature, and, taking advantage of the popularity of the new mayor, pictures her in conversation with David Crombie.

"I've been called the spiritual leader of the present reform group at City Hall," Mrs. Campbell says. "The thrust of my campaign for the mayoralty in 1969 was that communities should not be destroyed and the people should have a part in planning."

## Issues raised

Mrs. Campbell is raising the issues of health and education spending, municipal autonomy, regional government, provincial plans to build a superblock east of Bay St.—all with the same thrust that the people aren't being consulted and there is arrogance and confusion in provincial planning.

She won't say how much her campaign is going to cost, insisting she doesn't know. She says she will disclose all campaign contributions of more than \$200 and will ask contributors of less whether she may release their names.

Her supporters plan three canvasses and she hopes to cover personally much of the riding because her strategists figure her well-known face, big smile and (sometimes booming) friendliness are assets.

(She is the only one of the three main candidates, by the way, who lives outside the riding—but only a block away on Rowenwood Rd.)

The federal Liberals, anxious to build the Ontario party, appear to be giving strong support. Donald S.



—Star photo by Ron Bull

ADDRESSING University of Toronto students at Hart House, Margaret Campbell tells them Ontario government has become "monolithic"

and the opposition at Queen's Park needs strengthening. A late starter, she brings to the campaign municipal experience, personal popularity.

Macdonald, the energy minister, and Peter Stollery and other Toronto MPs are campaigning for her.

Like McMurtry, she takes a team with her canvassing. One day, it will be provincial MPPs Ed Good and Donald Deacon (who is supposed to be instrumental in persuading her to run so is working hard).

They tap on doors and tell potential voters: "We need Mrs. Campbell in the provincial House with us."

There are the usual residents who have already committed their votes to other parties. But in the north part of the riding, at least, many say how glad they are to see her back in politics. Some women hug

her and clasp her hand in delight.

On Davenport Rd. an old man opens the door, takes one look and before she can say a word to introduce herself, says:

"Okay, I know you. We're voting for you." He grins, "go on, beat it."

Mrs. Campbell has made one campaign promise. If elected, she

will establish a central riding office for herself, the federal members whose ridings cut across St. George and city aldermen.

"One of the terrible things is people are so confused about where to go in government for assistance. I will set up a riding office where all representing St. George will be available and can work together."

# Victorious in West, denturists sure Ontario ban cannot stand

By SALLY BARNES  
Star staff writer

VANCOUVER  
Denturists in British Columbia and Alberta say the Davis government's plan to bar their Ontario counterparts from selling false teeth to the public is doomed to fail.

They predict that the legislation will only result in widespread bootlegging of false teeth and continued confrontations between denturists and the law.

"You can't legislate denturists into extinction," says George Connolly, a Vancouver dentist. "We're fighters—because we know we've got the public behind us."

Denturists—the people who make and fit false teeth—have been licensed to sell teeth to the public for more than a decade in British Columbia and Alberta.

The battle between the denturists—or dental mechanics as they are called under legislation here—and the dentists is over in the West, even though many dentists are still bitter.

But in Ontario it's just begun. It could reach an explosive stage late this summer when a new law is proclaimed setting \$2,000 fines, six months in jail, or both, for anyone who sells false teeth without a dentist's supervision.

Denturists in Ontario have stated flatly that they won't work for dentists. They feel they're qualified to work directly with the public and say dentists should be spending their time at preventive dentistry and leave the "dental cripples"—those who have already lost their teeth—to the denturists.

Ben Sweet of Toronto, president of both the Ontario Denturists Society and the National Denturists Society, says he'll go to jail rather than comply with the new legislation. He predicts that most of the 200 denturists in Ontario, who now serve about 650 patients a day, will

also go "back underground" and risk jail terms.

Although the Ontario legislation was passed last December, proclamation is being held off until requirements are set for denture therapists—the denturists' new title—and denturists have time to qualify.

Dentists in Ontario say they'll hire denture therapists, although officials for the dental association refuse to suggest how much a denture therapist working under their supervision would be paid. The majority of dentists now obtain dentures from large dental laboratories operated privately across the province. Few have technicians working in their offices.

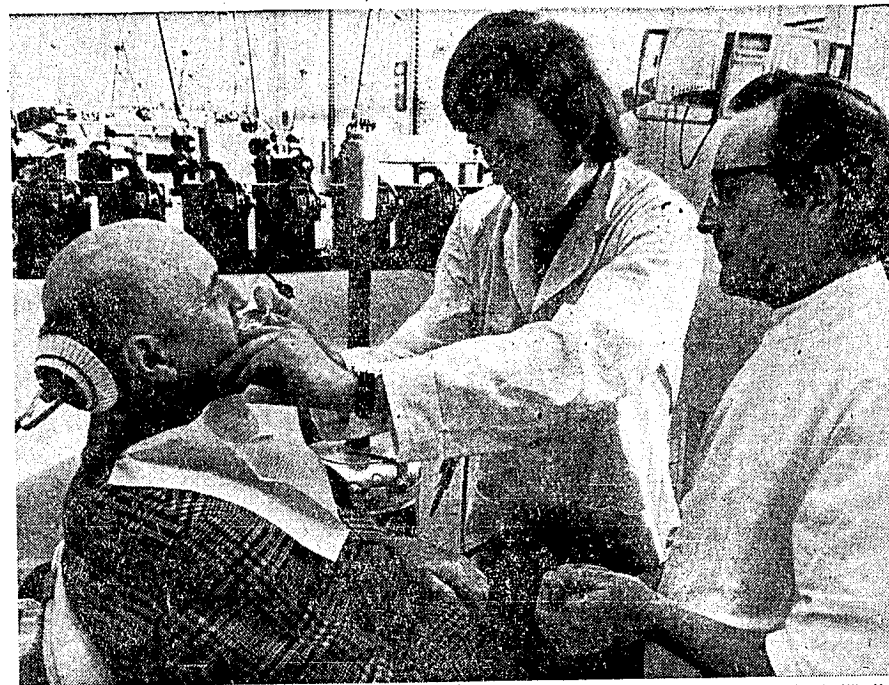
In Alberta, which became the first province to license denturists in 1961, and in British Columbia whose legislation came the following year, denturists charge about \$150 for a full set of false teeth. The average dentist charges about \$275. Both figures are about the same in Ontario.

In Manitoba, where legislation was passed last November to license denturists but the details are still being worked out, denturists charge about \$110 for a full set of false teeth, about half of what the dentists charge in that province.

Denturists in Alberta and British Columbia say Ontario Health Minister Richard Potter would have studied their dental programs before bringing in legislation.

"We could have shown him a completely safe and low-cost program that is working, that the public not only needs but wants," says Jack Katz, an Edmonton dentist and treasurer of the National Denturists Society.

"For some reason he (Potter) went to England to look at the dental program there when he could just as easily have come here and seen a program that's been working since 1962," says Vancouver's Connolly, who has 34 years' experience



—Star photo by Mike Vann

FITTING DENTURES in Edmonton lab of the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology, student

Dave Bladon is supervised by instructor Dave Robertson. Dentists have refused to lecture in course.

in denture making and is secretary of the National Denturists Society.

Both men have worked extensively in other provinces in the long and bitter battle that has raged for more than 20 years across Canada between dentists and denturists.

Only in Ontario have the denturists lost their fight for legal recognition in recent years.

Encouraged by Manitoba's acceptance of denturists in legislation last November, probable approval

in Nova Scotia, and strong indications from Saskatchewan and Newfoundland that legislation could come before the end of 1973, both Katz and Connolly are willing to bet Ontario's rejection of denturists will fail.

The new denture therapist in Ontario would either work in a dentist's office—if there was room and equipment available—or take the impressions in the dental office, make the dentures in a private laboratory and

return to the dentist's office to work with the patient under a dentist's supervision.

"It's unworkable, it's ludicrous, it's a complete waste of time for both the dentist and the denturist. I've never seen anything as clumsy as the Ontario legislation," says Katz. "They rushed it through and they're going to regret it. Denturists never give up and Ontario is just asking for trouble on this one."

Potter, who says denturists have

been "flagrantly breaking the law for years," has made it clear that offending denturists will be prosecuted once the new act is proclaimed.

When Ben Sweet predicts that denturists will go "back underground" he refers to the period before last summer when the Ontario College of Dentistry carried out raids on denture clinics and brought charges against denturists.

Potter called a moratorium on the raids and prosecutions last June when he brought in legislation that would have licensed a dental worker called a dental technologist. Such a person, whose qualifications were not then spelled out, would have been permitted to deal directly with the public.

Denturists greeted the initial legislation with hope and began studying how they could set up courses to upgrade their qualifications.

But in December, after his visit to England, Potter returned to the Legislature and in a surprise move withdrew the proposed legislation of five months earlier and announced the denture therapist plan under which denturists must work with a dentist.

The dentists' lobby had clearly won. But denturists insist there is a better way.

Leon Parent, president of the denturists in Manitoba, says legislation in that province could be a model for the rest of Canada.

At the insistence of the Manitoba denturists, the legislation requires that a patient obtain from a dentist a prescription and certificate of oral health before going to a denturist.

British Columbia still requires certificates of oral health, but these can be signed by either a dentist or medical doctor.

Edmonton has the only formal training program for denturists in North America. But dentists have

refused to lecture or take any part in the two-year course offered to students at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT).

Denturists describe the NAIT course as limited. It can accept only 11 new students a year because of limited space and students must rely for their training on instruction from denturists and technicians.

"It's rather like the blind leading the blind," says Dr. George Decker, executive director of the Alberta Dental Association.

Decker says he can't judge whether the NAIT course is good or not "because we refuse to get involved. We don't want anything to do with it because if we gave one hour of instruction they'd say they had our support. We're still opposed to the legislation because we still don't feel that people who are uneducated should be dealing with the public's health needs."

Graduates of the NAIT program are taught dental anatomy, clinical hygiene, sterilization, bacteriology and techniques for dealing with patients—what would be known in medicine as "bedside manner."

"We do not teach diagnosis. What we teach is if you see something you don't understand, refer the patient to a dentist," says David Robertson, an instructor in dental laboratory technology at the school.

Licensing procedures remain a problem.

In Alberta, 77 of the 92 licensed denturists now practising were certified under a "grandfather clause" in the legislation of 1961. These 77 were certified without examination because of their experience in the field.

Denturists in both Alberta and British Columbia say they all have "at least two" dentists who co-operate in referring patients back and forth. But the co-operation is somewhat clandestine.